

FIELD CHIEF TO OPERATE FROM ARSENAL AREA

Army Officers and Civilian Employees To Make Up Staff

Another indication that the Joliet Arsenal—formerly known as EOP and KOW—will be a permanent installation was forthcoming today with an announcement from the government that the office of the Field Director of Ammunition Plants will be established here sometime in December.

It is this office which has control over 95 per cent of the ammunition producing plants in the United States.

A statement issued this afternoon by Col. Byron Rife, commanding officer of the Joliet Arsenal, read:

"In an effort to consolidate more of its widespread industrial activities during World War II, the office of the Field Director of Ammunition Plants, now located at 3629 Lindell Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo., will be moved to the Joliet Arsenal, during the latter part of December.

"THE OFFICE of the Field Director of Ammunition Plants, which is a branch of the ammunition division, office of Chief of Ordnance, Washington, D. C., has been located in St. Louis since August, 1942, and has been responsible for the administration of cost-plus a fixed fee contracts at government-owned, contractor-operated ammunition producing facilities located thruout 22 of the 48 states, for the production of all artillery propellant powders, high explosives, rocket powder and finished ammunition larger than 50 caliber, in addition to bombs, used by the United States army in all theaters of operation during World War II.

"It has been responsible also for the supervision and control of ammunition production at those facilities.

"ST. LOUIS was originally selected as the site for the field director's office because of its central location, transportation and communication advantages. The new location will be on a government-owned military reservation and will result in considerable economy in operation of the office."

According to Col. Rife, approximately 23 U. S. army officers and 40 war department civil service employees will be transferred to Joliet in this move.

Col. T. C. Gerber, first commanding officer of EOP and KOW, has been Field Director of Ammunition Plants since the office was established. He is now on terminal leave following his retirement from the army, with which he served for 28 years.

Col. Rife said that headquarters for the field director's office will be established in the administration building at EOP. Officers and civilian employees will occupy quarters at both KOW and EOP.